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Dear Foster:

This is a rather late footnote to the President's atomic proposal before the UN, but I only got word of it yesterday afternoon.

Clarence Pickett of the American Friends, and on certain UN Committees, heard the President deliver his speech at the UN. He told me yesterday afternoon that as the delegates walked away after the speech, Jacob Malik took him by the arm and said, "What do you think are the U.S. intentions?" Pickett replied that that was a rather large question to be resolved within the next fifteen or sixteen steps which it would take to reach the reception room.

Malik then asked him if he thought the President's offer was sincere. Pickett told him that he was absolutely convinced that it was.

Malik then made some remark about what line the Russians should take in Berlin and with respect to the atomic proposal. Pickett replied that he appreciated the fact that our side frequently appeared to be just as stubborn and intransigeant to the Soviets as they appear to us. However, this was one time when if the Soviets were sincere, they should demonstrate it by deeds, not words, and do it fast.

Pickett then told me that apparently Malik must have cabled this information to Moscow, because a few days later Pickett's friend Laucaster, a New York banker whom the Russians have gotten to know through various Amtorg dealings and whom they apparently trust, was approached by Amtorg and asked the identical questions. His replies, by fortunate coincidence, were almost identical with Pickett's.

Then a few days later came the announcement that Zarubin would be talking to you.

I don't know what this is worth, if anything, but it is an interesting little ploy anyhow.

All the best,

NSC REVIEW COMPLETED, 10/31/04

The Honorable John Foster Dulles The Secretary of State

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